

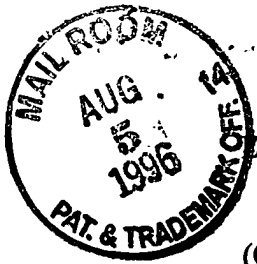


Docket No. 2026-4124

PATENT

(Group I). Claims 6-19, 38-40 and 46-48 are drawn to the MART-1 protein and methods of making and using MART-1 classified in Class 514, Subclass 12+ and Class 530, Subclass 328 and 350+ (Group II). Claims 20-22 and 28-35 are drawn to antibodies and methods of using said antibodies, classified in Class 530, Subclass 387.7 and Class 435, Subclass 7.23 (Group III). Claims 41-43 are drawn to gp100 peptides classified in Class 530, Subclass 328 (Group IV). Claims 51-52 are drawn to methods of identifying genes, classified in Class 435, Subclass 6 (Group V). Claims 53-55 are drawn to methods of assessing the immunogenicity of peptides or MART-1 or gp100, classified in Class 435, Subclass 29 (Group VI). Claims 23-27 and 36-37 are drawn to methods for detecting the mRNA or the genomic nucleic sequence, classified in Class 435, Subclass 6 (Group VII).

The claims of Group II, III and IV have been assigned to Class 530. Therefore applicants believe it would not be unduly burdensome for the Examiner to search the claims directed to the MART-1 protein and methods of making and using the same (Group II), the claims directed to antibodies (Group III) and the claims directed to gp100 peptides (Group IV). The claims of Group III have also been assigned to Class 435 as have the claims of Group V (claims 51-52), Group VI (claims 53-55) and Group VII (claims 23-37 and 36-37). Therefore, applicants believe it would no be unduly burdensome for the Examiner to search the claims of Groups III, V, VI and VII simultaneously. Moreover, the nuclei acid sequences of Group I may be used in the methods of Group II, V, VI and VII. Therefore, applicants believe it would not be unduly burdensome for the Examiner to search Groups I-VII simultaneously. This response is made without prejudice with the filing of divisions applications directed to the subject matte of claims 6-19, 38-40, and 46-48



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(Group II), claims 20-22 and 28-35 (Group III), claims 41-43 (Group IV), claims 51-52 (Group V), claims 53-55 (Group VI), and claims 23-27 and 36-37 (Group VII).

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this Amendment, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 2026-4124.

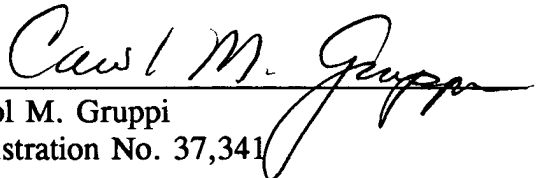
In the event that an extension of time is required or which may be required in addition to that requested in the petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 2026-4124. A DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS SHEET IS ATTACHED.

Respectfully submitted,

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